

Faulk, Camilla

From: Harry S. Steinmetz [hss@steinmetzlaw.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2011 1:18 PM
To: Faulk, Camilla
Subject: Proposed CrR 4.11 Recording Interviews

Dear Ms. Faulk and others considering Proposed CrR 4.11 Recording Interviews:

This proposed rule is a simple common sense approach to improving the integrity of the criminal justice system. I simply cannot conceive of why anyone with knowledge of the criminal justice system would be opposed to this rule. Recording of interviews protects victims of crimes from being accused of changing their story, it protect victims of crimes from abusive lawyers by creating a record that can be the basis of sanctions and last it protects everyone from repeatedly having to give their version of the events more than once.

It is important to remember this rule doesn't not effect a defendant's attorney's right to interview a witness, but simple provides a cheap and effcient means of making a record of that interview. The interview is part of a defendant's due process rights and will always happen, wether it is recorded or not. In a civil case, there is no question that a formal deposition can be taken of any witness, however that is expensive. To require all a deposition in every criminal case as the only method of producing a recording of an interview would add tremendously to the cost of the defense, both public and private.

I have been made aware of some of the hysterical statements from the victim rights groups and prosecutors that somehow this will lead to abusive defense attorneys badgering victims of crime. While I am convinced that this rarely occurs, after all the best way to get someone to talk to you is to be nice and unthreatening to them, it seems obvious to me that best way to control this is to make a recording of this behavior and get the complaint before a judge or the bar.

Please enact Proposed CrR 4.11 Recording Interviews, in its current form. It just makes sense for everyone.

Harry S. Steinmetz
The Law Office of Harry S. Steinmetz
724 South Yakima Avenue
Suite 200
Tacoma, WA 98405
253-272-4575
hss@steinmetzlaw.net

This email, and any files transmitted with it, are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify our office. Please note that any views or opinions presented in this email are not intended as legal advice, unless otherwise indicated and accompanied by a bill. Finally, the recipient should check this email and any attachments for the presence of viruses. The Law Office of Harry S. Steinmetz accepts no liability for any damages caused by any virus transmitted by this email.